



**From the desk of Joan M. DuBois  
Dranesville District Supervisor**

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# Dranesville Dispatch

**April 2006**

**Volume VIII**

## *Letter from Supervisor Joan DuBois*

As a George Mason Alum, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Patriots Basketball Team for making it to the “big dance” the final four of the NCAA Tournament. The team made us proud, and it was nice to see all of Northern Virginia and the metropolitan area offering such wonderful support. Go GMU Patriots and congratulations on a great season!

Spring is upon us, and that means it is budget season in Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors held public hearings on the County Executive’s proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget for three consecutive nights, April 3, 4, and 5. Approximately 200 persons testified with a wide variety of recommendations. These included advocating the dedication of 2 cents on the tax rate for affordable housing, providing more tax relief, supporting the schools and pay raises for teachers, increasing School Age Child Care opportunities, supporting our public safety personnel, advocating for family service programs, supporting an arts initiative, advocating later high school start times and expanded after school programs for the Middle Schools, providing for the homeless, requesting pay adjustments for employees, asking for more funding for trails and sidewalks, and asking for more funding for athletic fields. As noted, these are just some of the requests the Board of Supervisors heard.

The Board is scheduled to make some final decisions on the FY 2007 Budget at a work session scheduled for Monday, April 24, and budget adoption is scheduled for May 1. The adopted budget would go into effect July 1, 2006.

The Board of Supervisors will also be approving the Capital Improvement Program for FY 2007 to FY 2011 as part of the budget process. A Public Safety Bond is being proposed for November 2006, and one of the projects will be the replacement of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Station.



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## Dranesville District Town Meeting

I hosted a Dranesville District Town Meeting on Saturday, March 25, at Colvin Run Elementary School. The town meeting featured presentations by County staff and officials. In addition, citizens had the opportunity to view a variety of exhibits by County agencies.



*MPO Crime Specialist Tom Black addresses the audience as well as Supervisor DuBois, County Executive Tony Griffith and Chief Financial Officer Ed Long.*

My welcoming remarks were followed by presentations and comments from County Executive Tony Griffin, Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, Chief Financial Officer Ed Long, Tax Administration Department Director Kevin Greenlief, Police Officer Tom Black from the McLean Station, and Tysons Corner Transportation and Urban Design Study Task Force member, Clark Tyler.

The Fiscal Year 2007 budget was the main focus, along with discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing the County in the upcoming year, and questions on taxes and home assessments. Officer Black provided timely information for keeping your home safe and secure from break-ins, and Clark Tyler updated the attendees on the efforts of the Tysons Task Force. A lively question and answer session followed the various presentations.

Approximately 70 residents were able to find information about upcoming gypsy moth spraying areas, the West Nile virus program, the McLean Community Center, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Maps of the proposed Dulles Rail Project were available for view, as well as information from the County's Departments of Transportation and Tax Administration. In addition, the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) debuted their new interactive site "My Neighborhood", and a representative from Senior Services steered citizens through the "Senior Navigator", a comprehensive Web site for resources for senior citizens.

### VDOT Maintenance Program

The Virginia Department of Transportation has released the Maintenance Program Schedule for street repaving, with work to begin in this month and completion of all projects by December 1.

Old Dominion Drive is the #1 priority and is to be repaved from Georgetown Pike to the Capital Beltway bridge. Work is scheduled to start in mid to late June.

The following Dranesville streets are also on the repaving schedule: Pettit Court, Brockman Lane, Robindale Drive, Phoenix Lane, Mill Run Drive, Rich Meadow Drive, Duchess Drive, Stuart Ridge Drive, Trossac Road, Sheridan Run Court, Forbes Glen Drive, Crown Meadow Drive, Safa Street, Safa Court, Algarve Street, Flor Lane, Huntmaster Lane, Huntmaster Court, Coat Ridge Road, Richland Valley Drive, Falls Pointe Court, Falls Pointe Drive, Syrup Mill Road, Taji Court, Alvord Street, Whitley Drive, Montague Drive, Pembroke Place, Verveille Drive, Colvin Meadow Lane, Towlston Road (from Old Dominion Drive to Georgetown Pike), Sugar Maple Lane, Cheviot Drive, Seneca Road (from Georgetown Pike to Beach Mill Road), Bellview Road (from Towlston Road to Georgetown Pike), Leesburg Pike (from Utterback Store Road to the Colvin Run Bridge), Georgetown Pike (from Ellsworth Avenue to Riverbend Road), Browns Mill Road, Crowell Road, and Utterback Store Road (from Georgetown Pike to Beach Mill Road).

## 2006 Trees Project

On February 27, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion introduced by Chairman Gerry Connolly to initiate a Trees 2006 campaign, in which the goal is to plant 2006 trees by the end of this calendar year. This campaign is being done in partnership with Fairfax ReLeaf, the Fairfax County Tree Commission, the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District and other donating organizations.



*Supervisor DuBois celebrates the Chinese New Year with children at the Lewinsville Senior Center.*

The goal for Dranesville is 222 trees by the end of the year. Further, **Free Trees** are available to plant on public or common community property. Tree stakes, guards and education are also available Free of Charge to all who wish to help with this effort. Trees can be planted at schools, religious institutions, on Homeowner Association property, and in parks.

Trees will be available after April 21 through the end of May, and again in late September for a fall planting. To order trees, contact Fairfax ReLeaf at 703-324-1409, TTY 711 or [trees@fairfaxreleaf.org](mailto:trees@fairfaxreleaf.org). Residents interested in planting trees must provide the number and types of trees needed and when and where they

will be planted. Trees will be delivered to each Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' office on April 21 and April 28. When an order is placed, information about picking up the trees will be provided. Because the trees will arrive with bare roots, they will need to be kept in a dark, cool place with their roots moist until planted. The following species of trees will be available; Crab Apple, Green Ash, Common Buttonbush, Hackberry, Hazelnut, Red Maple and American Plum.

The point of contact in my office for the 2006 Trees Project is Casey Hanes, 703-356-0551. I encourage you to get involved. If you have ideas for planting sites or would like to help with planting projects, please let us know. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance our natural habitat and help make Fairfax County a healthier and more beautiful place to live. Once again, **Free Trees**.

### Earth Day Arbor Day Celebrations

Fairfax County's official observation of Earth Day and Arbor Day is being held at the Annandale Campus of Northern Virginia Community College on **Saturday, April 29, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Earth Day/Arbor Day is sponsored by Fairfax Recycling, Clean Fairfax Council, Northern Virginia Community College, and Fairfax County. The festivities will include a special appearance by Jack Hanna, a petting zoo, learning safari, reptiles/amphibians in our backyard, computer recycling, cell phone recycling, eye glass recycling, rechargeable batteries, tree recycling, climbing wall, demonstrations and exhibits, arbor day tree plantings, games, food, and much more.

The Town of Herndon's celebration will be held on **Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at Runnymede Park which will include nature activities for families and live music. The formal program will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the Virginia Department of Forestry will present the 17th consecutive Tree City USA award to the Town. The event will be held rain or shine.

## What is a Mandate and How Does it Affect My Tax Rate

Every year the United States Congress and the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that has an impact on programs and services that are provided in Fairfax County. This legislation covers a wide variety of program areas such as clean air, refuse disposal, fuel emissions, vehicle safety standards, family medical leave, procurement and education. They define access standards for disabled residents, methods of mailing tax bills, juvenile detention standards, reimbursement levels for housing, care and probation services for incarcerated prisoners. They include fire protection regulations, preservation of the Chesapeake Bay, building codes, and standards for establishing retirement benefits for teachers and uniformed services. They set standards for early intervention for at-risk preschoolers, establish testing standards for measuring student achievement and criteria for improving scores for failing students. They insure privacy for Medical and Health Insurance Records (HIPAA).

Many of these mandated standards are important and necessary. They allow us to protect our vulnerable population, our natural resources and even our homes. However, they do come at a price: in FY 2006, the unreimbursed costs associated with State and Federal mandates were \$660 million, an increase over FY 2005 of \$114 million. Since FY 1996, the unfunded portion of mandated costs has increased an average of eight percent per year. Revenue provided by the Federal Government and the State simply does not keep pace with the growth in expenditures.

In many cases, localities are expected to absorb funding cutbacks by utilizing local funds. For example, from its inception, the costs associated with implementing the No Child Left Behind Act in Fairfax County has been \$122 million, while Federally reimbursed costs have been \$16 million. However, compared to all mandated annual expenditures, federal mandates make up only 35% of county expenditures or about \$423 million. State mandates actually cost the county \$771 million or 65%. The state reimburses the county for less than 12% of costs associated with programs mandated by the General Assembly, while user fees and other revenues account for 24%. The difference is borne by you, the taxpayer. If mandated programs were adequately funded by the branch of government that imposed them, the savings to you, the taxpayer would be seen in a reduction in the tax rate of as much as 30 cents.

I invite you to take a moment to read the most recent financial analysis of mandated costs by going to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/> and clicking the link to the 2006 Federal State Mandates Report of the County Executive.

## Fairfax Shelter Launches Foster Program

Are you a caring individual who can provide a little extra TLC to animals in need? If so, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is looking for people interested in providing temporary, in-home foster care for cats, kittens, small mammals and special-needs dogs.

Training and support will be offered to all foster-care providers. If you can offer a temporary home for an animal in need or have questions, please contact Ellen Kamilakis [Ellen.Kamilakis@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Ellen.Kamilakis@fairfaxcounty.gov), or download a [volunteer foster application online](#) and return it to the shelter at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Complete and submit your application by April 21 to attend the first foster care provider orientation as part of this exciting new program.



*Supervisor Penny Gross, Supervisor Linda Smyth, Chairman Gerry Connolly, and Supervisor DuBois joined together on March 18 to install insulation at the Stone House at Briarwood Terrace during a Habitat for Humanity housing project.*



## Pandemic Flu Town Meeting

I have heard from many Dranesville residents in recent months who are concerned about whether the County is adequately prepared for a pandemic flu epidemic. The answer is yes, and I invite you to participate with us to be sure that your family is adequately informed. The County is partnering on this effort with the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church and the towns of Herndon and Vienna.

However, as Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., Fairfax County health director has stated, "Planning for pandemic flu is not just a government issue. It is important that residents understand their individual responsibility to prepare themselves and their families for pandemic flu." Hand washing is the most important – and simplest – action everyone can take to help prevent the spread of many germs that make people sick. Washing hands would also significantly reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses such as the flu and pertussis; diseases such as pink-eye and hepatitis A; and gastro-intestinal illnesses like norovirus and salmonella. Studies have shown that vigilant hand washing can reduce illnesses in communities by up to 50 percent.

I invite you to attend Fairfax County's pandemic flu Town Meeting to be held on **Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m.** in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Questions will be accepted by those in attendance, as well as by phone at 703-818-1445, TTY 711, or sent via e-mail to [wwwcpd@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:wwwcpd@fairfaxcounty.gov). For those unable to attend, the program will be broadcast live on cable Channel 16 and will be available on video on demand after the program airs on April 18. The pandemic flu Town Meeting will also be rebroadcast at 8 p.m. on both Saturday, April 22, and Wednesday, April 26.

For more information about Fairfax County's pandemic flu planning initiative, contact the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435, or visit the County Web page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd). Additional resources are the Virginia Department of Health Web site at [www.vdh.state.va.us/](http://www.vdh.state.va.us/) as well as the CDC Pandemic Flu Web page at [www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic) and the official U.S. government Web site for information on pandemic flu, [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

### I-66 Project Right-of-Way and Topographic Survey

Letters were recently sent to residents adjacent to I-66 (inside the Beltway) advising that survey work will begin along the corridor this month. The work will entail verification of the right-of-way and property lines adjacent to the roadway, as requested by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Regional Transportation Planning Board. A topographic survey will also be conducted to obtain ground elevations, utility locations and storm sewer locations. All of this work will be completed by the fall. Residents with any questions should call Theresa L. DeFore at the Virginia Department of Transportation at 703-383-2150.

### Keep the Box Clear

We all like to complain about traffic and congestion, but congestion actually worsens when intersections are blocked and traffic patterns become disrupted. Officers from the McLean District Station and the Police Department's Traffic Division have begun an initiative aimed at encouraging drivers not to "block the box." It is the public's legal obligation to keep intersections clear of vehicles. Some of the worse violations of actually blocking intersections occur at Route 123 and Old Dominion Drive (my personal nightmare), Route 7 and Westpark Drive, and Route 7 and International Drive. Please do not "block the box."

***Reminder: Herndon Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2006.***

## Increase in salaries proposed for the Board of Supervisors

The County Executive has recommended that future members of the Board of Supervisors receive an increase in pay, effective January 1, 2008, after the next election cycle, for members elected in November, 2007. This proposal would increase Board salaries from their current level of \$59,000 to \$75,000, the first increase proposed since 1998, when Board members were paid \$45,000 per year.

Each Board member represents approximately 100,000 constituents in what is constituted as a part time job on your behalf. Because Board members cannot increase salaries during their current term of office, this would be the last opportunity to increase salaries for future Boards before Fiscal Year 2012. Although a number of individuals testified at an April 3 public hearing on this issue, the public record will remain open for written comments until April 24. In making his recommendation, the County Executive made comparisons to the District of Columbia: \$95,520; Montgomery County: \$76,654; and Prince Georges County: \$73,114.

I would very much like to hear from you on this issue and whether you feel this increase is warranted at [Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### *Dranesville District Congratulations*

\* To the Longfellow Middle School Chess Club for taking first place in the Virginia State Scholastic Chess Championships. And to Chess Team member Aryan Khojandi for being on a winning chess club for the third time, achieving his other two titles as a student at Kent Gardens Elementary School.

\* To Kent Gardens Elementary School Chess Club for earning team trophies in three categories in the State Championships.

\* To Lauren Hunt, a junior at McLean High School, who was chosen as the winner of the U.S. Army Orchestra's first Young Artist Competition.

\* To Cooper Middle School band which was selected to receive the Sudler Silver Cup for 2005 from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, one of only two middle school bands in the U.S. and Canada to receive the international honor. The Sousa Foundation's Sudler Cup is the highest recognition of excellence that is awarded to a middle school band program.

\* To Herndon High School Basketball Team member Scottie Reynolds for being named to the Washington Post's All-Met First Team. Congratulations also to Mr. Reynolds for being selected for the McDonald's All-American High School Team.

\* To Herndon High School Swimming Team member Jimmy McLaughlin for being named to the Washington Post's All-Met First Team.

\* To Great Falls resident and O'Connell High School Senior Kate Ziegler for continuing her superb swimming career. Kate was chosen All-Met Swimmer of the Year by the Washington Post.



## Trails and Sidewalks Committee Serves as Key Resource for Alternative Transportation

The Trails and Sidewalks Committee, recently renamed from the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, provides key resources for sidewalks, trails and on-road bicycle facilities throughout the county. The mission of this committee is to ensure that residents can easily and safely travel between and through major commercial, residential and natural areas by walking, cycling or using other forms of alternative transportation.

The committee evaluates existing plans for alternative transportation, assists the county in producing maps of these resources and plans new facilities. Committee members also evaluate site plans for trail facilities. Residents may contact the Trails and Sidewalks Committee to request sidewalks or to discuss pedestrian and bike issues by calling 703-324-1380, TTY 711. More information is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nmtc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nmtc).

The Trails and Sidewalks Committee consists of representatives from the nine magisterial districts, an at-large representative and representatives from the following organizations: Fairfax County Park Authority, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Clifton Horse Society, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Northern Virginia Building Industry Association and the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Staff members from the county's Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Department of Transportation, and Park Authority assist the committee.

In reviewing the committee's charter on Feb. 6, the Board moved to change the committee's name to simplify it. It was originally formed in 1978 as the Trails Committee and later renamed the Non-Motorized Transportation Committee. For further information, call Sheng Leu, the county trails planner, at 703-324-1380, TTY 711, or Wade Smith, Dranesville Trails and Sidewalks appointee, [whsmith@mitretek.com](mailto:whsmith@mitretek.com).

## Fairfax County Launches New Online Information Resource

The Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, in collaboration with county agencies and departments, has launched Fairfax County News to Use, a new online information resource for residents, community organizations and businesses. Located at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news) the publication presents ongoing highlights of the county in one central location, including news articles, key links, photos, e-government resources and calendars.

For more information about Fairfax County News to Use, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or [publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Free Seminars for Caregivers of Older Adults

Are you, like many adults in our community, providing care for an older adult? Fairfax County is sponsoring a series of 12 free seminars to help you better provide that care. Topics include transitions (how to tell when a loved one needs more help); long-distance caregiving (what to do when you live far from a loved one); financial management during difficult times; Alzheimer's disease (strategies for effective communication); and more. Seminars take place at various times and locations throughout the county during April and May. For more information visit, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/upcomingevents.htm>.

*For a current list of our Dranesville District Appointees, please visit our Web site*  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/Appointees.htm>

# Senior Safety and Awareness

Seniors citizens are often more vulnerable to certain type of crimes such as purse snatching, mugging, and fraud. But you can reduce opportunities for criminals to strike by being careful, alert, and also a good neighbor.

## Travel Safety

If you drive, keep your windows up and your doors locked. Park in well-lit areas. Whenever possible, travel with a friend. Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home. Carry a cell phone when you are out to summon help if you need it. If a friend or a taxi takes you home, ask them to wait outside until you are safely inside. Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train or subway.

## Home Safety

If you live alone, don't advertise it. Use only your first initial in phone books, directories, and apartment lobbies. Or better yet, request a non-published number. Work out a "buddy" system with a friend to check on each other daily. Never let strangers in your home without checking their identification. Call their company if you are unsure. For instance if the stranger says he/she is from the water dept., or gas company, call the company number to check if that workman is indeed in your neighborhood. If you receive checks in the mail regularly (such as Social Security or Pension Checks) arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank instead. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you are home. Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using timers on lights. Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.

Engrave your valuables with a unique identification number but do not use your social security number. Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom worn jewelry, or treasured collections in a safe deposit box. Don't hide house keys under the doormat or any obvious place. These are the first places burglars will look. Never put your purse or wallet on a counter while you examine merchandise in a store. Never carry your wallet in your back pocket, instead put it inside a jacket pocket or front pocket. If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body, and do not let it hang from your arm.

## Get Involved in the Community

Join a Neighborhood Watch to look out for each other and help the police. Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement. Be sure your street address number is large, clear from obstruction, and well-lit so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.

Get involved in TRIAD. TRIAD promotes partnerships between senior citizens and the law enforcement community, both to prevent crime against the elderly and to help law enforcement benefit from the talents of the senior community. To get involved in Fairfax TRIAD call 703-246-3262.

## Register with Project Lifesaver

*Project Lifesaver* is a nationwide identification, support and registration program working at the community level. It provides assistance when a person becomes lost locally or far from home. By forming partnerships with local law enforcement and public safety organizations, *Project Lifesavers* deploys specially trained teams with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers. Assistance is available 24 hours a day, every day whenever a person is lost or found. For more information please contact:

<http://www.projectlifesaver.org/site/> or Lieutenant Daniel Pierce at 703-246-4710.

## Resources

For more information on senior services throughout our area visit [www.seniornavigator.org](http://www.seniornavigator.org) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/seniors](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/seniors). Or contact the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging 703-324-7948, TTY 703- 449-1186, [Fairfax\\_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Fairfax_aaa@fairfaxcounty.gov).

*For more information on senior safety please contact:*

**Officer Tom Black • Fairfax County Police • McLean District Station • 703-556-7750 ext. 2227**